

Program Notice

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HARD RED WINTER WHEAT PROTEIN CALIBRATION ADJUSTMENT

1. SUMMARY

Effective May 1, 2002, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) will adjust the official Hard Red Winter Wheat (HRW) protein calibration for official near-infrared transmittance instruments (NIRT) by issuing new Standard Reference Sample baseline values.

2. BACKGROUND

FGIS performs annual reviews of wheat protein calibrations to measure the performance of NIRT instruments compared to the standard reference method, the Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer (CNA). The periodic adjustment of calibrations provides the grain industry with the best possible information from which to determine end-product yield from recent wheat harvests. The current HRW calibration has been in place, with no adjustments, since May 1993.

FGIS recently completed a review of the HRW calibration for the near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments. Based on the results of the review, FGIS determined that the HRW calibration needs a bias adjustment to more closely align it with the CNA. The bias adjustment was made using HRW samples in the 11.0 – 15.0 percent protein range that are representative of the past several crop years.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

FGIS will implement the bias adjustment by assigning new baseline values for use with the existing Standard Reference Samples provided to all HRW official inspection sites.

4. ANTICIPATED EFFECT

The effect of the calibration adjustment will be to more closely align the official NIRT protein measurements with the CNA reference method, based on a system-wide average, for HRW wheat. The specific effect of the adjustment will be to lower the protein result by 0.10 percent across the full protein range.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions to the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0224.

/s/ John Giler

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